



## Ohio Senate

Senate Building  
Room 134, First Floor  
Columbus, Ohio 43215  
(614) 466-8082  
[uecker@ohiosenate.gov](mailto:uecker@ohiosenate.gov)

## Committees

State Government and Oversight Reform -- Vice Chair  
JCARR • Finance: Subcommittee on Education  
Energy and Natural Resources • Civil Justice  
Public Safety • Public Utilities • Commerce and Labor  
Broadband and Technology Caucus -- Co-Chairman

**Joe Uecker**  
**14<sup>th</sup> District**

March 5, 2014

Chairman Thomas Wheeler, FCC Commissioners & Mr. Jonathan Chambers  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> St SW  
Washington, D.C. 20536

Dear Chairman Wheeler, FCC Commissioners and Mr. Chambers,

On behalf of Scioto County and as a member of the Ohio Broadband and Technology Caucus, I am pleased to offer my support of Horizon Telcom's Expression of Interest for funding through the Commission's Rural Broadband Experiments to deploy next-generation broadband networks within Scioto County, Ohio.

Over the past several years numerous interested parties have come together in Ohio to increase access to high-speed Internet and digital literacy training throughout the state. However, only 71 percent of households have broadband service in their homes.

Scioto County faces unique challenges to broadband access, adoption, and usage that can be addressed through this project. In Scioto County alone, more than 1,500 households do not have access to broadband at speeds of at least 3 Mbps downstream and 768 Kbps upstream. Constituents often inform me that the lack of access is so great that they often seek out free Wi-Fi from local businesses to complete homework and work projects. Scioto County will not be competitive from a state perspective if its citizens continue to lag behind their peers in technological advancement.

Horizon Telcom's program described in this Expression of Interest will maximize the impact of the Rural Broadband Experiments by leveraging the community resources and stakeholders assembled through the Every Citizen Online program to further strengthen the capacity of Scioto County and our residents. Deploying robust broadband connectivity in Scioto County will incentivize scalable broadband networks and catalyze benefits to economic development, education, healthcare, and overall quality of life.

It is with enthusiastic support and the upmost confidence that I recommend Horizon Telcom for funding to enhance local broadband networks. These networks will significantly contribute to our community and residents, and ensure network availability now and in the future.

Please contact my office if you need further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joe Uecker".

Joe Uecker  
State Senator  
14<sup>th</sup> District



## Ohio Mid-Eastern Regional Education Service Agency

2023 Sunset Blvd. Steubenville, OH 43952  
Phone: 740-283-2050 • Fax: 740-283-1500

February 28, 2014

Chairman Thomas Wheeler, FCC Commissioners & Mr. Jonathan Chambers  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> St SW  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Wheeler, FCC Commissioners and Mr. Chambers,

On behalf of the many schools and communities Ohio Mid-Eastern Regional Education Service Agency (OME-RESA) serves in Appalachia Ohio, I am pleased to write in support of Horizon Telcom's Expression of Interest, an opportunity for funding through the Commission's Rural Broadband Experiments to deploy next-generation broadband networks and its corresponding benefits within numerous counties in Appalachia Ohio.

OME-RESA is an Information Technology Center (ITC) of the Ohio Education Computer Network (OECN) serving school districts and related agencies in Appalachia (Eastern and South Eastern Ohio). OME-RESA was organized in 1975 to provide various services to school districts. Through the years, OME-RESA has been continually adding and updating programs through a cooperative effort that enables school districts and related agencies to expand services at a financial savings. Today, **OME-RESA provides high quality, cost-effective technology and cooperative purchasing services to educational institutions, local governments and municipalities to benefit student learning and wide-reaching community initiatives.**

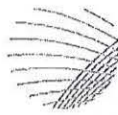
Horizon Telcom's program described in this Expression of Interest will maximize the impact of the Rural Broadband Experiments by leveraging community resources and assembling stakeholders to further strengthen the capacity of Appalachia Ohio and our residents. Deploying robust broadband connectivity in Appalachia Ohio will incentivize scalable broadband networks and catalyze benefits to economic development, education, healthcare, and overall quality of life.

I want to express my unequivocal support for the organized effort by Horizon Telcom to enhance local broadband networks. These networks will significantly contribute to our community and residents, and ensure network availability now and in the future.

Sincerely,

Angela Underwood, Executive Director  
2230 Sunset Blvd.  
Steubenville, OH 43952  
Website: [www.omeresa.net](http://www.omeresa.net)  
Email: [angie.underwood@omeresa.net](mailto:angie.underwood@omeresa.net)  
Phone: (740) 283-2050 x 116  
Fax: (740) 283-1500





# SEOVEC

Southeastern Ohio Voluntary Education Cooperative

221 Columbus Road, Athens, OH 45701

Jimmy W. Battrell, CEO/Director

February 28, 2014

Chairman Thomas Wheeler, FCC Commissioners & Mr. Jonathan Chambers  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th St SW  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Wheeler, FCC Commissioners and Mr. Chambers,

On behalf of the many schools and communities Southeastern Ohio Voluntary Education Cooperative (SEOVEC) serves in Appalachia Ohio, I am pleased to write in support of Horizon Telcom's Expression of Interest, an opportunity for funding through the Commission's Rural Broadband Experiments to deploy next-generation broadband networks and its corresponding benefits within numerous counties in Appalachia Ohio.

SEOVEC is an Information Technology Center (ITC) of the Ohio Education Computer Network (OECN) serving school districts and related agencies in Appalachia (Southern and South Eastern Ohio). SEOVEC as formed in 1972 when the school districts Athens, Gallia, Hocking, Jackson, Meigs, Morgan, and Perry counties joined together to assist in developing and implementing selected educational services and programs which could be conducted more effectively and/or efficiently through cooperation. Washington County joined the Cooperative in 1976. Through the years, SEOVEC has been continually adding and updating programs through a cooperative effort that enables school districts and related agencies to expand services at a financial savings. Today, SEOVEC provides high quality, cost-effective technology and cooperative purchasing services to educational institutions and others to benefit student learning and wide-reaching community initiatives.

Horizon Telcom's program described in this Expression of Interest will maximize the impact of the Rural Broadband Experiments by leveraging community resources and assembling stakeholders to further strengthen the capacity of Appalachia Ohio and our residents. Deploying robust broadband connectivity in Appalachia Ohio will incentivize scalable broadband networks and catalyze benefits to economic development, education, healthcare, and overall quality of life.

I want to express my unequivocal support for the organized effort by Horizon Telcom to enhance local broadband networks. These networks will significantly contribute to our community and residents, and ensure network availability now and in the future.

Respectfully,

Jimmy Battrell  
CEO/Director  
(740) 594-7663  
jimmy@seovec.org



OHIO PUBLIC LIBRARY INFORMATION NETWORK

2323 West 5th Avenue, Suite 130 • Columbus, Ohio 43204 • 614.728.5252 (phone) • 614.728.5256 (fax)

March 5, 2014

Chairman Thomas Wheeler, FCC Commissioners & Mr. Jonathan Chambers  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> St SW  
Washington, D.C. 20536

Dear Chairman Wheeler, FCC Commissioners and Mr. Chambers,

On behalf of the Ohio Public Library Information Network (OPLIN), I am pleased to write in support of Horizon Telcom's Expression of Interest, an opportunity for funding through the Commission's Rural Broadband Experiments to deploy next-generation broadband networks and its corresponding benefits within Horizon Telcom's footprint in Ohio.

Through participation of many of our libraries in the very effective Every Citizen Online Program with Connect Ohio, a nonprofit organization that works to expand broadband access, adoption, and use in Ohio, we have witnessed first-hand the benefits of high-speed Internet access and digital literacy training within our communities.

While OPLIN is interested in the benefits of the Rural Broadband Experiments for anchor institutions such as libraries, Horizon Telcom's program described in this Expression of Interest will further enhance the impact of the Rural Broadband Experiments by leveraging the community resources and stakeholders assembled through the Every Citizen Online program to significantly strengthen the capacity of Ohioans. Deploying widespread, robust broadband connectivity in this region will promote scalable broadband networks and catalyze benefits to economic development, education, healthcare, and overall quality of life.

I want to express my unequivocal support for the organized effort by Horizon Telcom to enhance local broadband networks. These networks will significantly contribute to our communities and residents, and ensure network availability now and in the future.

Sincerely,

Director



# Coshocton County Commissioners

## Board of Commissioners

Gary L. Fischer  
Dane R. Shryock  
D. Curtis Lee



401½ Main Street  
Coshocton, Ohio 43812  
Phone 740-622-1753  
Fax 740-622-4917

March 3, 2014

Chairman Thomas Wheeler, FCC Commissioners & Mr. Jonathan Chambers  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> St SW  
Washington, D.C. 20536

Dear Chairman Wheeler, FCC Commissioners and Mr. Chambers,

On behalf of the Coshocton County Commissioners, I am pleased to write in support of Horizon Telcom's Expression of Interest, an opportunity for funding through the Commission's Rural Broadband Experiments to deploy next-generation broadband networks and its corresponding benefits within Coshocton County, Ohio.

Through participation in the Every Citizen Online Program with Connect Ohio, a nonprofit organization that works to expand broadband access, adoption, and use in Ohio, we have witnessed first-hand the benefits of high-speed Internet access and digital literacy training within our community.

Coshocton County faces unique challenges to broadband access, adoption, and usage that can be addressed through this project. In our county alone, nearly 3,700 households do not have access to broadband at speeds of at least 3 Mbps downstream and 768 Kbps upstream. According to Connect Ohio, nearly 13,500 households in the counties that would be served by this project do not subscribe to home broadband service. Among those households, nearly one in ten cite the lack of available broadband service as their main reason for not subscribing, while one in eight say they lack the digital skills necessary to use broadband.

Horizon Telcom's program described in this Expression of Interest will maximize the impact of the Rural Broadband Experiments by leveraging the community resources and stakeholders assembled through the Every Citizen Online program to further strengthen the capacity of Coshocton County and our residents. Deploying robust broadband connectivity in Coshocton County will incentivize scalable broadband networks and catalyze benefits to economic development, education, healthcare, and overall quality of life.



I want to express my unequivocal support for the organized effort by Horizon Telcom to enhance local broadband networks. These networks will significantly contribute to our community and residents, and ensure network availability now and in the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Gary L. Fischer". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Gary" being more prominent.

Gary L. Fischer

President, Coshocton County Commissioners





# MONROE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

101 N. Main Street - Room 34 Woodsfield, OH 43793

Telephone: (740) 472-1341 Fax: (740) 472-5156

Carl M. Davis, President

Sheila Turner, Clerk

Tim R. Price, Vice President

John V. Pyles

March 5, 2014

Chairman Thomas Wheeler, FCC Commissioners & Mr. Jonathan Chambers  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> St SW  
Washington, D.C. 20536

Dear Chairman Wheeler, FCC Commissioners and Mr. Chambers,

On behalf of the Monroe County Commissioners, I am writing to express my support of Horizon Telcom's Expression of Interest, an opportunity for funding through the Commission's Rural Broadband Experiments to deploy next-generation broadband networks in Monroe County, Ohio.

Through participation in the Every Citizen Online Program with Connect Ohio, a nonprofit organization that works to expand broadband access, adoption, and use in Ohio, we have witnessed the benefits of high-speed Internet access and digital literacy training within our community, as these efforts are upgrading the skill sets, and creating new career opportunities, for our residents.

Monroe County faces unique challenges to broadband access, adoption, and usage that can be addressed through this project. In our county alone, nearly 3,800 households do not have access to broadband at speeds of at least 3 Mbps downstream and 768 Kbps upstream. According to Connect Ohio, over 24,000 households in the counties that would be served by this project do not subscribe to home broadband service. Among those households, one in four cite the lack of available broadband service as their main reason for not subscribing, while nearly one in six say they lack the digital skills necessary to use broadband.

Horizon Telcom's program described in this Expression of Interest will maximize the impact of the Rural Broadband Experiments by leveraging the community resources and stakeholders assembled through the Every Citizen Online program to further strengthen the capacity of Monroe County and our residents. Accessibility to robust broadband connectivity is often a requirement of companies evaluating locations for new or relocated facilities. Given this, it is critical that Monroe County has access to broadband networks to better equip our County and residents with the infrastructure and skills to more effectively compete for new corporate investment opportunities, while also providing an environment for existing companies to prosper and expand.

Please accept this letter as an expression of my full support for the organized effort by Horizon Telcom to enhance local broadband networks. Improving these networks will have a substantial positive impact on the County and our residents, ensuring current and future network availability.

Respectfully,

Jason Hamman  
Economic Development Representative  
Monroe County Commissioners

# Washington County



223 Putnam Street  
Marietta, Ohio 45750  
740.373.6623 • 740.374.7693 F

## *Commissioners*

Ronald L. Feathers / ext. 287 / rfeathers@wcgov.org

Timothy C. Irvine / ext. 202 / tirvine@wcgov.org

David A. White / ext. 293 / dawhite@wcgov.org

## *Clerk*

Rick Peoples / ext. 201 / rpeoples@wcgov.org

## *Administrator*

Paul K. Cunningham / ext. 206 / pcunningham@wcgov.org

March 6, 2014

Chairman Thomas Wheeler, FCC Commissioners, Jonathan Chambers  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street SW  
Washington, DC 20536

Dear Chairman Wheeler, Commissioners and Mr. Chambers:

On behalf of Washington County we are pleased to write in support of Horizon Telcom's Expression of Interest, an opportunity for funding through the Commission's Rural Broadband Experiments to deploy next-generation broadband networks and its corresponding benefits within Washington County, Ohio.

Through participation in the Every Citizen Online Program with Connect Ohio, a nonprofit organization that works to expand broadband access, and use in Ohio we have witnessed first-hand the benefits of high-speed internet access and digital literacy training within our community.

Washington County faces unique challenges to broadband access, adoption, and usage that can be addressed through this project. In our County alone, nearly 3,300 households do not have access to broadband at speeds of at least 3 Mbps downstream and 768 Kbps upstream. According to Connect Ohio, more than 24,100 households do not subscribe to home broadband service across the counties that would be served by this project. Among those households, one in four cite the lack of available broadband service as their main reason for not subscribing, while nearly one in six say they lack the digital skills necessary to use broadband.

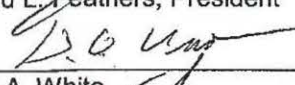
Horizon Telcom's program described in this Expression of Interest will maximize the impact of the Rural Broadband Experiments by leveraging the community resources and stakeholders assembled through the Every Citizen Online program to further strengthen the capacity of Washington County and our residents. Deploying robust broadband connectivity in Washington County will incentivize scalable broadband networks and catalyze benefits to economic development, education, healthcare, and overall quality of life.

We express our support for the organized effort by Horizon Telcom to enhance local broadband networks. These networks will significantly contribute to our community and residents, and ensure network availability now and in the future.

Sincerely,

**WASHINGTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

  
Ronald L. Feathers, President

  
David A. White

  
Timothy C. Irvine

Visit our website: [www.washingtongov.org](http://www.washingtongov.org)

The Board of Washington County Commissioners is an Affirmative Action employer and does not discriminate for reasons of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, age, disability, veteran status or other legally protected status.



**Switzerland of Ohio H.E.L.P.  
Higher Education & Learning Partnership**

**MISSION:** H.E.L.P. is a regional non-profit helping to identify transition points in education where students may experience difficulty or need additional support. The partnership's primary goal is to significantly increase the education/training rates beyond high school and with adults through:

- college enrollment;
- vocational or skills training; and
- military opportunities.



March 5, 2014

Chairman Thomas Wheeler, FCC Commissioners and  
Mr. Jonathan Chambers  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> St SW  
Washington, D.C. 20536

Dear Chairman Wheeler, FCC Commissioners and Mr. Chambers:

On behalf of the Switzerland of Ohio Higher Education & Learning Partnership (A P-16 Council), I am pleased to write in support of Horizon Telcom's Expression of Interest. We support this opportunity for funding through the Commission's Rural Broadband Experiments to deploy next-generation broadband networks and its corresponding benefits within Monroe County, Ohio.

Through participation in the Every Citizen Online Program with Connect Ohio, a nonprofit organization that works to expand broadband access, adoption, and use in Ohio, we have witnessed first-hand the benefits of high-speed Internet access and digital literacy training within our community.

Monroe County faces unique challenges to broadband access, adoption, and usage that can be addressed through this project. In Monroe, nearly 3,800 households do not have access to broadband at speeds of at least 3 Mbps downstream and 768 Kbps upstream. According to Connect Ohio, over 24,000 households in the counties that would be served by this project do not subscribe to home broadband service. Among those households, one in four cite the lack of available broadband service as their main reason for not subscribing, while nearly one in six say they lack the digital skills necessary to use broadband.

Horizon Telcom's program described in this Expression of Interest will maximize the impact of the Rural Broadband Experiments by leveraging the community resources and stakeholders assembled through the Every Citizen Online program to further strengthen the capacity of Monroe County and our residents. Deploying robust broadband connectivity in Monroe County will incentivize scalable broadband networks and catalyze benefits to economic development, education, healthcare, and overall quality of life.

**Switzerland of Ohio H.E.L.P. • A P-16 Council**

The Switzerland of Ohio HELP partnership supports the organized effort by Horizon Telcom to enhance local broadband networks. These networks will significantly contribute to our community and residents, and ensure network availability now and in the future.

Switzerland of Ohio HELP is a P-16 Council serving the Switzerland of Ohio Local School District (SOLSD) which includes all of Monroe County as well as parts of Belmont and Noble Counties in rural, Southeastern Ohio. The school district is the largest district in the State of Ohio covering 546 square miles. Should you have questions, contact me at [gwynnstewart@juno.com](mailto:gwynnstewart@juno.com) or 740-472-9177

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Gwynn Stewart". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Gwynn Stewart  
2014 Chair





March 5, 2014

Chairman Thomas Wheeler, FCC Commissioners and  
Mr. Jonathan Chambers  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> St SW  
Washington, D.C. 20536

Dear Chairman Wheeler, FCC Commissioners and Mr. Chambers:

On behalf of Buckeye Hills-Hocking Valley Regional Development District, I am pleased to write in support of Horizon Telcom's Expression of Interest. We support this opportunity for funding through the Commission's Rural Broadband Experiments to deploy next-generation broadband networks and its corresponding benefits within Monroe County, Ohio.

Through participation in the Every Citizen Online Program with Connect Ohio, a nonprofit organization that works to expand broadband access, adoption, and use in Ohio, we have witnessed first-hand the benefits of high-speed Internet access and digital literacy training within our community.

Monroe County faces unique challenges to broadband access, adoption, and usage that can be addressed through this project. In Monroe, nearly 3,800 households do not have access to broadband at speeds of at least 3 Mbps downstream and 768 Kbps upstream. According to Connect Ohio, over 24,000 households in the counties that would be served by this project do not subscribe to home broadband service. Among those households, one in four cite the lack of available broadband service as their main reason for not subscribing, while nearly one in six say they lack the digital skills necessary to use broadband.

Horizon Telcom's program described in this Expression of Interest will maximize the impact of the Rural Broadband Experiments by leveraging the community resources and stakeholders assembled through the Every Citizen Online program to further strengthen the capacity of Monroe County and our residents. Deploying robust broadband connectivity in Monroe County will incentivize scalable broadband networks and catalyze benefits to economic development, education, healthcare, and overall quality of life.

Buckeye Hills supports the organized effort by Horizon Telcom to enhance local broadband networks. These networks will significantly contribute to our community and residents, and ensure network availability now and in the future.

Founded in 1968, Buckeye Hills assists communities in identifying urgent needs and securing grant and loan dollars to improve their infrastructure and the overall quality of life for their residents. Buckeye Hills serves Monroe in its eight-county district within southeastern Ohio. Should you have questions, contact me at [mcasto@buckeyehills.org](mailto:mcasto@buckeyehills.org) or 740-374-9436.

Sincerely,



Misty Casto  
Executive Director